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FILE ONLY

# Nick Thimmesch, 57, columnist

Nicholas Palen Thimmesch, 57, a nationally syndicated newspaper columnist and a resident journalist at the American Enterprise Institute, died of cancer yesterday at his home in Chevy Chase.

Mr. Thimmesch began writing a syndicated column in January 1969. He occasionally contributed articles to The Washington Times and was affiliated with the Los Angeles Times Syndicate. He had served as Washington bureau chief of Newsday and as a reporter for Time magazine, the Des Moines Register and the Davenport (Iowa) Times.

He joined AEI in 1981 and worked on its project on Communications in a Free Society. During that time, while continuing his syndicated column, he organized more than 20 seminars and symposiums on media-related issues.

The seminars he conducted focused primarily on how the media has covered the Reagan administration, economics and wars. The seminars also dealt with how the media handles the Middle East, and the attitude of media elites.

"We are deeply saddened by the loss of this distinguished writer and this man of integrity," said William J.

Baroody, president of AEI. "Nick Thimmesch was one of America's most respected journalists."

Mr. Thimmesch edited "Aliteracy: People Who Can Read But Won't," a volume drawn from one of his seminars and published by the institute. He also wrote several books, including "Robert Kennedy at 40," "The Bobby Kennedy Nobody Knows," and "The Condition of Republicanism."

His essays appeared in many magazines including The New York Times Magazine, the Saturday Evening Post, Esquire, Life, New York, Argosy, Cosmopolitan, McCall's, and Sports Illustrated. He also appeared on several television and radio programs, including "Meet the Press" and "Face the Nation."

"Like his hero, H.L. Mencken, Nick Thimmesch was a prolific writer and had an uncanny knack for finding the real story where others addressed superficial aspects of an issue," said Mr. Baroody. "There was a great deal of integrity, intelligence, and old-fashioned Iowa wisdom in Nick Thimmesch."

Born in Dubuque, Iowa, Mr. Thimmesch served in the Merchant Marines for about two years. Later

he received a bachelor's degree from the University of Iowa, and after teaching at a college for two years he went into journalism.

Mr. Thimmesch was a member of the H.L. Mencken Society, the National Advisory Council of St. John's University in Minnesota and the President's Commission on World Population Year in 1974. He also was a fellow at the Institute of Politics, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, for the 1980-81 academic year.

He is survived by three sons, Nicholas P. Thimmesch Jr., and Peter and Michael Thimmesch of Chevy Chase; two daughters, Elizabeth Trafford of London and Martha Thimmesch of Los Angeles; a sister, Mary Jameison of Dubuque and two brothers, Al Thimmesch of Reno, Nev., and Frank Thimmesch of Galena, Ill.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. tomorrow in Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, 6001 Western Ave. NW, with burial Tuesday in Dubuque.

The family suggests that expressions of sympathy be in the form of contributions to the American Cancer Society.

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THE CITY

## OBITUARIES

# Columnist Nicholas Thimmesch Dies at 57

Nicholas Palen Thimmesch, 57, a nationally syndicated newspaper columnist who was a resident journalist at the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research, died July 11 at his home in Chevy Chase. He had liver cancer.

Mr. Thimmesch, who wrote for the Los Angeles Times Syndicate, had been a syndicated columnist since 1969. He had previously been Washington bureau chief for Newsday and a reporter for Time magazine, the Des Moines Register and the Davenport (Iowa) Times.

He had been with American Enterprise Institute since 1981, working on a project on "Communications in a Free Society" while continuing to write his column. In recent years he had organized and moderated seminars and symposiums on such issues as media coverage of the Reagan administration, economics, wars, the Middle East and the attitude of media elite.

Mr. Thimmesch was the author of several books, including "Robert Kennedy at 40," "The Bobby Kennedy Nobody Knows," and "The Condition of Republicanism." He edited a volume drawn from one of his seminars, "Aliteracy: People Who Can Read but Won't," and he wrote essays for such publications as Sports Illustrated, The New York Times Magazine, Esquire, Life, Cosmopolitan and McCall's. He was a frequent guest on radio and television programs, including "Meet the Press" and "Face the Nation."

He was born in Dubuque, Iowa, served 22 months in the Merchant Marine in the late 1940s and graduated from the State University of Iowa, where he taught for two years before entering journalism.

Mr. Thimmesch was a member of the H.L. Mencken Society and in 1974 served on the President's Commission on the World Population Year. He was a fellow at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government in 1980-81. He had been a resident of the Washington area for the last 19 years.

Mr. Thimmesch's marriage to Susan Winora Thimmesch ended in divorce. Survivors include two daughters, Elizabeth Trafford of London, and Martha Thimmesch of Los Angeles, and three sons, Nicholas P. II, Peter and Michael, all of Chevy Chase.



NICHOLAS PALEN THIMMESCH